

Town of Farragut, TN
Farragut, TN
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W. Edward Ford, III
 Mayor

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 January 16, 2001

Board of Aldermen

Joel W. Garber
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Gary S. Hartman
 U.S. Department of Energy
 Oak Ridge Operations Office
 Post Office Box 2001
 Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Support for Modernization of Y-12 Plant

As Mayor of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee I am well aware of the impact of Oak Ridge DOE missions on our region. I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Site-Wide Environment Impact Statement (SWEIS) for the Y-12 National Security Complex (a/k/a Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant).

For over fifty years the Y-12 Plant has played a critical role in ensuring the national security. I applaud the DOE for their decision to continue the weapons production mission at Y-12. Since the DOE has made this decision and, as noted in the Draft SWEIS, since the majority of the plant's facilities are over forty years old, it seems appropriate that modernization of the Y-12 facilities occur soon.

I worked for over thirty-three years as a nuclear engineer in the neighboring Oak Ridge National Laboratory and for approximately three years as a construction engineer for the Atomic Energy Commission in Oak Ridge. I am aware of the importance of keeping nuclear-related processes and facilities in upgraded conditions.

I commend the DOE for its preparation of the Draft SWEIS and want to go on record in support of upgrades of existing Y-12 facilities and construction of new facilities at Y-12 for the Highly Enriched Uranium Storage Mission and the Special Materials Mission. The modernization of the Y-12 Plant processes and facilities will help ensure the continued health and safety of the employees and community, improve efficiencies of operations, and reduce associated operational costs over the long term.

1/16

Comment No. 1
 Comment noted.

Issue Code: 16

2/22

Comment No. 2
 Comment noted.

Issue Code: 22

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Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment and I request that my letter be included in the Draft SWEIS comment record.

Sincerely,



W. Edward Ford, III
Mayor